**Technology Activity: Visual Ranking**

**1.** This tool facilitates critical thinking through Bloom’s Taxonomy for Cognitive and Affective Domains. The ranking tool helps students to do a wide range of tasks that develops their critical thinking. The pyramid of the cognitive domain develops the students ability to rank , compare, differentiate, contrast, and apply value to a specific topic. Each step in the cognitive domain encourages the student to think beyond the basic knowledge and develop and defend their reasoning for why something has higher importance than the other based on certain objectives. The affective domain gives students the ability to use tools other than their own brains. They interact in groups and social situations while placing certain criteria into a hierarchy. The ranking tool facilitates interaction and learning from the top down and the bottom up. Te affective domain forces students to evaluate their own reasoning against the others of their group and to either persuade and defend their reasoning or vice versa.

**2.**

Step 1: Click **Set up a new Visual Ranking project**

Step 2: Create a project name, description and prompt for the students.

Step 3: The students brainstorm a list of ideas and the instructor facilitates the collection of the ideas into the list sort for the students to rank.

Step 4: Save the project

Step 5: Add teams to a project by clicking **Add New Student Teams.** Click done when finished creating teams.

Step 6: Teams can be modified on the **Manage Project Teams** page.

Step 7: Share log in information with the teams when the project has been created.

The teacher can engage the students in using this ranking tool by having the students work in teams to come up with a list and by having them discuss their list and compare it with other groups once they are finished.

**3.**  I like the idea of seeking ways to reduce their impact on the environment and brainstorming ways in which they can reduce this cost. I can see this unit being used to possible rank the amount of excess that each student uses and having the students rank what they use the most in terms of their carbon footprint and then discussing or even ranking some of the brainstormed ways to reduce this cost. The career choices project idea is a great way to get students thinking about their futures and what they feel would be the most fitting career for them. I like the idea of students ranking the importance of time, money, impact, etc. to determine which job meets these needs out of the ones that they are considering. These projects lead me to think of unit plans surrounding the Civil War (one example) and having the students rank some of the causes/precursors of the war and have a discussion on why they believe, using evidence from the reading, that their particular choice was ranked higher than the others. A good project to use the ranking tool would be for the students to rank how much time they spend on certain activities in their lives to do a lesson on discovering and developing better time management skills. These are excellent uses of the ranking tool to promote content knowledge as well as skills in evaluating, planning, and prioritizing. +5